

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 14

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Wanda Lee Moody of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Wanda Lee Moody of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Moody was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on September 8, 1929, in Knoxville to J. Randall and Clara Mitchell Moody, Wanda Lee Moody was a graduate of the University of Tennessee, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1947 and a master's degree in special education in 1954; and

WHEREAS, a career public servant, Ms. Moody held several leadership positions within the old Knoxville City school district, where she served as a speech and hearing clinician and initiated services for special education as the first woman to serve on the superintendent's staff; her efforts resulted in the Knoxville Adaptive Education Center; and

WHEREAS, during the administration of Governor Lamar Alexander, Wanda Moody served with distinction as the Assistant Commissioner of Education for the Tennessee Department of Education in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, leaving State government, Ms. Moody returned to Knoxville, where she accepted a position as an administrative assistant for education and human resources on the staff of Knoxville Mayor Kyle Testerman; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Wanda Moody humbly offered herself for public office and became the third woman elected to serve on the Knox County Commission; she served twenty years on that august body; she also served on the Metropolitan Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her years of public service, Ms. Moody was honored by the Knoxville City Council in 2019, when they unanimously renamed the North Winston Road Overpass in the West Hills community, the Wanda Moody Overpass; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moody will be sadly mourned but fondly remembered by her family, Joan (Victor) Ashe, Mary (Doug) Kersten, Martha (Tom) Nealon, Claude Plumlee, M.P. "Perky" Plumlee, and Leslie Plumlee; great-nieces and great-nephews, J. Victor Ashe, Martha Ashe, Dr. Andrew (Casey) Kersten, Dr. Sara Kersten (Ryan) Parrish, Tom (Katie) Nealon, Beau Plumlee, Lily Plumlee, Miles Plumlee, Mason Plumlee, Marshall Plumlee, and Madeline Plumlee; and close neighbor and caregiver, Louise Owens; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents and her sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Millard P. Plumlee; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Moody leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Wanda Lee Moody, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Moody.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.